

MARVEL
COMICS



\$1.75 US

\$2.15 CAN

47

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UK 55p

APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

EXCALIBUR



CALL ME
PARANOID..
BUT I THINK
WE'RE BEING
MANIPULATED!

30TH
ANNIVERSARY



THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR
1961-1991

ALAN DAVIS / MARVEL COMICS

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANGED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...
EXCALIBUR

BARELY A MINUTE AGO, LAUGHTER ECHOED THROUGH THE EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE BASEMENT...



...AS THE TECHNET RIDICULED WIDGET'S FIRST CRUDE ATTEMPT TO SPROUT A BODY.

POOM

THEN A VIOLENT EXPLOSION SHATTERED THE CELLAR DOOR...



...AND A MENACING SHAPE APPEARED AMID THE DEVASTATION.

NOW THE DEAFENING ROAR OF BATTLE FILLS THE AIR.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT THING IS, KURT?

NO IDEA, KYLLIN. ITS ARRIVAL IS AS STARTLING AS YOUR OWN.



IT'S FIGHTING DEFENSIVELY--DEFLECTING THE TECHNET'S ATTACK WITH-OUT INFLECTING ANY HARM ON THEM.

I AGREE. WE COULD HAVE TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH IT IF THE TECHNET HAD NOT RESPONDED SO QUICKLY TO THE APPARENT THREAT.



BUT THE ONLY THING THAT WILL STOP THIS FROM ESCALATING NOW IS A MIRACLE.

EXCALIBUR™ Vol. 1, No. 47, February, 1992. (ISSN 1045-1368) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President. Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.15 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$33.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.



OTHERWORLD—A REALM OF ANCIENT MAGIC BEYOND THE CONFINES OF TIME AND SPACE—

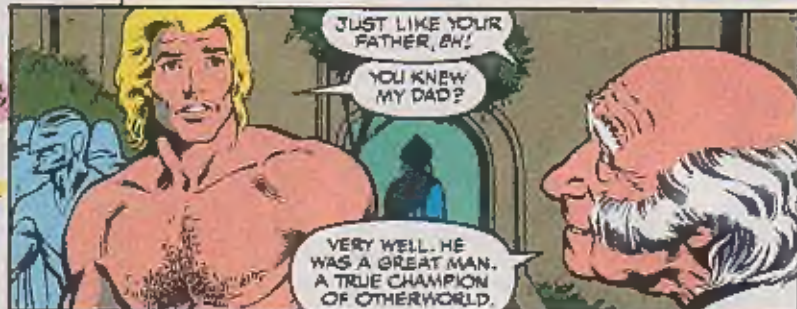
--RESIDENCE OF THE OMNIVERSAL GUARDIAN, ROMA, AND HER INTER-DIMENSIONAL POLICE FORCE...

...ONE OF WHOM IS BRIAN BRADDOCK, CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

GOOD DAY, TRAVELER.

CAN I TEMPT YOU WITH A GAME OF CHESS...?

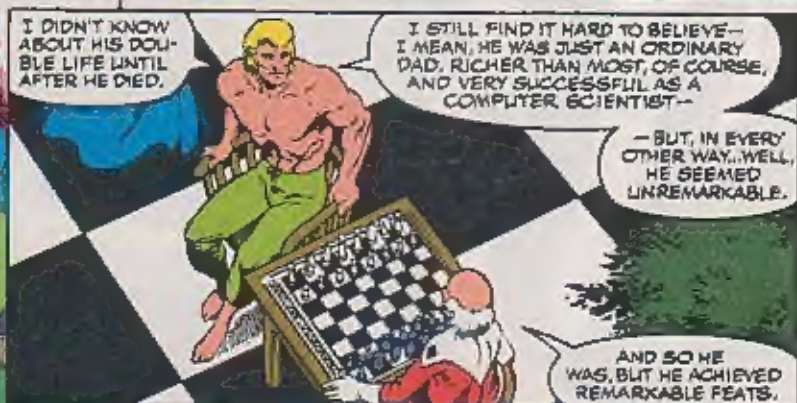
NO, THANKS. I'VE NEVER BEEN INTO PLAYING GAMES.



JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER, BH!

YOU KNEW MY DAD?

VERY WELL. HE WAS A GREAT MAN. A TRUE CHAMPION OF OTHERWORLD.



I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HIS DOUBLE LIFE UNTIL AFTER HE DIED.

I STILL FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE—I MEAN, HE WAS JUST AN ORDINARY DAD, RICHER THAN MOST, OF COURSE, AND VERY SUCCESSFUL AS A COMPUTER SCIENTIST—

—BUT, IN EVERY OTHER WAY...WELL, HE SEEMED UNREMARKABLE.

AND SO HE WAS, BUT HE ACHIEVED REMARKABLE FEATS.



I HAVEN'T LIVED UP TO HIS EXAMPLE.

WHICH IS WHAT YOU WERE INTENDED TO BE.

WHEN I BECAME CAPTAIN BRITAIN, I TRIED TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT—BUT EVERYTHING GOT SO COMPLICATED...

...AND SINCE EXCALIBUR FORMED, I'VE MADE A REAL MESS OF THINGS. I'VE BEEN A CLUMSY HALFWIT.



WHAT?

AS CAPTAIN
DESIGNATE BIG
YOU ARE ALLOWED
THE ILLUSION OF
FREE WILL, BUT
YOU ARE NO MORE
THAN A PAWN.



I KNOW MERLYN
USED ME IN THE
PAST, BUT ROMA
IS RUNNING
THINGS NOW--

DO YOU TRULY
BELIEVE SHE IS
LESS OF A
MANIPULATOR
THAN HER
FATHER?

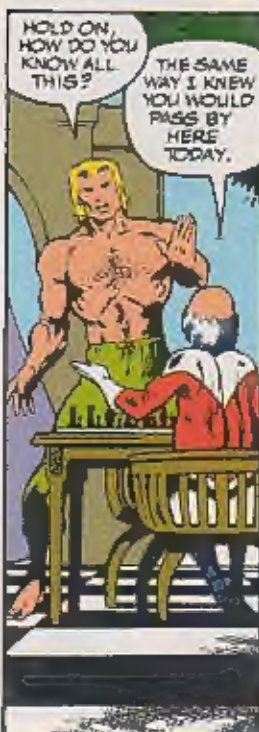
ROMA
ENGINEERED
THE EVENTS THAT
LED TO THE
FORMATION OF
EXCALIBUR.



SHE KNEW YOU WERE
A LONER AND A THREAT
TO THE GROUP'S BOND-
ING, SO SHE JINXED YOU
TO CURTAIL YOUR IN-
DIVIDUALITY, TO FORCE
YOU TO WORK WITH
THE TEAM.

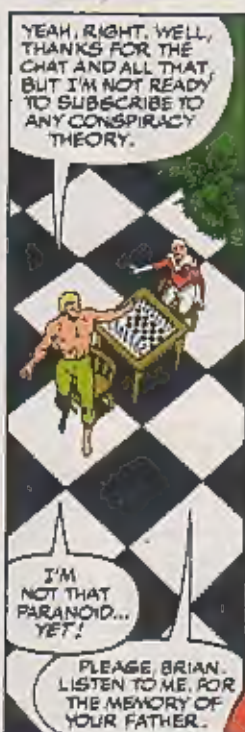
WHENEVER YOU
TRIED TO OPERATE
INDEPENDENTLY, THIS
"BLUNDER FACTOR"
WOULD FOG YOUR PER-
CEPTIONS AND DULL
YOUR COORDINATION.

AND THE HARDER
YOU TRIED, THE MORE
HUMILIATING YOUR
FAILURE.



HOLD ON,
HOW DO YOU
KNOW ALL
THIS?

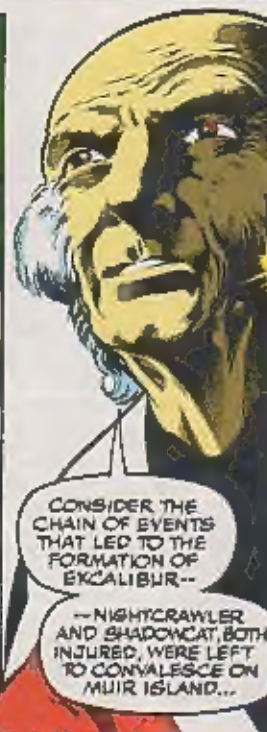
THE SAME
WAY I KNEW
YOU WOULD
PASS BY
HERE
TODAY.



YEAH, RIGHT. WELL,
THANKS FOR THE
CHAT AND ALL THAT,
BUT I'M NOT READY
TO SUBSCRIBE TO
ANY CONSPIRACY
THEORY.

I'M
NOT THAT
PARANOID...
YET!

PLEASE, BRIAN.
LISTEN TO ME, FOR
THE MEMORY OF
YOUR FATHER.



CONSIDER THE
CHAIN OF EVENTS
THAT LED TO THE
FORMATION OF
EXCALIBUR--

-- NIGHTCRAWLER
AND SHADOWCAT, BOTH
INJURED, WERE LEFT
TO CONVALESCENCE ON
MUIR ISLAND...



"...WHILE THEIR TEAMMATES,
THE X-MEN, WERE-- UNTIL
RECENTLY-- BELIEVED TO
HAVE DIED IN THE SERVICE
OF NONE OTHER THAN ROMA."

AND, YOUR SISTER BETSY'S ALLEGIANCE TO THE X-MEN BOUND YOUR DESTINY TO THEIRS--BOWING THE SEEDS OF FUTURE FRIENDSHIPS.

ALL VERY CONVENIENT, EH?

"THE STRATEGY TO UNITE THE COMPONENTS BEGAN WHEN ROMA CAUSED AN IMAGE OF THE PHOENIX EFFECT TO APPEAR AROUND THE RISING SUN."

"MEGGAN WITNESSED THE MANIFESTATION..."

"...AND, AFTER YOU REJECTED HER--IN A RAGE BORN OF DRUNKEN GRIEF--SHE WAS INSPIRED BY THE VISION TO FLY TO MUIR ISLAND."

"SHE ARRIVED JUST AS GATECRASHER'S TECHNET MATERIALIZED IN PURSUIT OF PHOENIX."

"ROMA HAD ENSURED THAT THE BOUNTY HUNTERS WOULD BE DRAWN TO MUIR ISLAND."

"SHE HAD GIVEN SHADOWCAT AND NIGHTCRAWLER A SHARED DREAM..."

"WITH PREDICTABLE HEAVY-HANDEDNESS, GATECRASHER TOOK SHADOWCAT AND MEGGAN AS UNNECESSARY HOSTAGES--"

"YET PHOENIX WAS STILL A PRISONER IN MOJO'S DIMENSION AT THAT TIME. COINCIDENCE? I THINK NOT."

"...IT CONCENTRATED THE PSYCHIC RESIDUE OF PHOENIX'S RAPPORT WITH HER FRIENDS, REKINDLING THE SMOLDERING EMBERS INTO A BLAZING TELEPATHIC BEACON."

"--THUS ENSURING THAT NIGHTCRAWLER WOULD FLEE TO ENLIST YOUR AID."

"AROUND THE SAME TIME, PHOENIX ARRIVED IN LONDON..."

"...HOTLY PURSUED BY MOJO'S WARWOLVES."

"AFTER A BRIEF TASTE OF FREEDOM, PHOENIX WALKED INTO AN AMBUSH BY THE TECHNET..."



"...WHICH, ON SO COINCIDENTALLY OCCURRED AT THE PRECISE LOCATION THE WARMOLVES HAD LAID THEIR OWN TRAP."



"YOU AND NIGHTCRAWLER JOINED THE ENSUING MELEE..."



"...FREED YOUR CAPTIVE FRIENDS..."

"...AND TOGETHER, WON THE DAY."

UNITED IN VICTORY, EXCALIBUR WAS BORN.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY SATURNINE SENT GATECRASHER TO CAPTURE PHOENIX, YET IGNORED HER WHEN THEY MET ON THE HUB--

--AND WHY CRUNGEBOTTOM ARRIVED AT THE PRECISE INSTANT EXCALIBUR HAD BEEN DEFEATED BY THE TECHNET--

--GATECRASHER WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

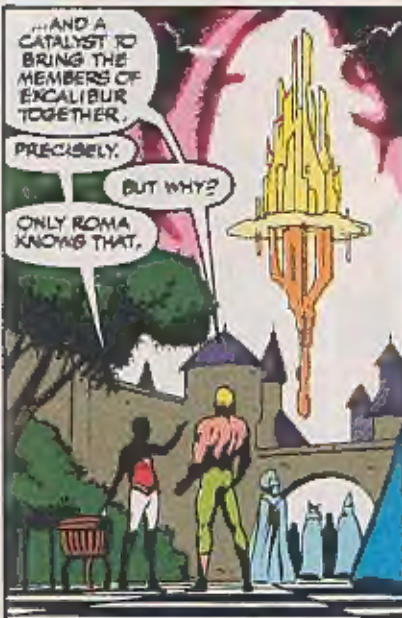
SHE WAS JUST AN OBSTACLE TO PREVENT THE WARMOLVES FROM CAPTURING RACHEL...

...AND A CATALYST TO BRING THE MEMBERS OF EXCALIBUR TOGETHER.

PRECISELY.

BUT WHY?

ONLY ROMA KNOWS THAT.



THEN I'LL ASK HER.



O WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE...



EARTH 616--
THE EXCALIBUR
LIGHTHOUSE...

I WAS TRAVELING
THROUGH HYPERSPACE
FROM MY HOMELAND,
SHAKOFRUGNION TO
THE PHLEGMON RIM
FRONTIER--

--I HAD GROWN
BORED WITH THE
COMFORTABLE ROUTINE
OF OUR SOCIETY AND
SOUGHT ADVENTURE.

BUT AS I PASSED
THROUGH THE QUAS-
SION FIELD OF
TRYAR, FIERCE
TURBULENCE
STRUCK ME.

I BURST OUT MY TRANSIT
SUITS DUKANE DRIVE
UNIT TRYING TO RESIST...
BUT THE VORTEX WAS
TOO STRONG.

I WAS SUCKED IN--COMPLETELY
OUT OF CONTROL--AND I CRASH
MATERIALIZED HERE.

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN PULLED
VERY FAR OFF COURSE. I HAVE
ENCOUNTERED MANY ALIEN RACES,
BUT NONE THAT USE TECHNOLOGY
SUCH AS YOURS.



I HAVE NO IDEA
WHERE THIS "EARTH"
IS IN RELATION TO
SHAKOFRUGNION.

MY TRANSIT SUIT
SENSORS ARE UNABLE
TO DETECT ANY FA-
MILIAR ASTRAL
CONFIGURATIONS...



...SO IT IS
LOGICAL TO
ASSUME I AM
EXTREMELY
FAR FROM
HOME.



IF NOT IN
SPACE, POSSIBLY
IN TIME.

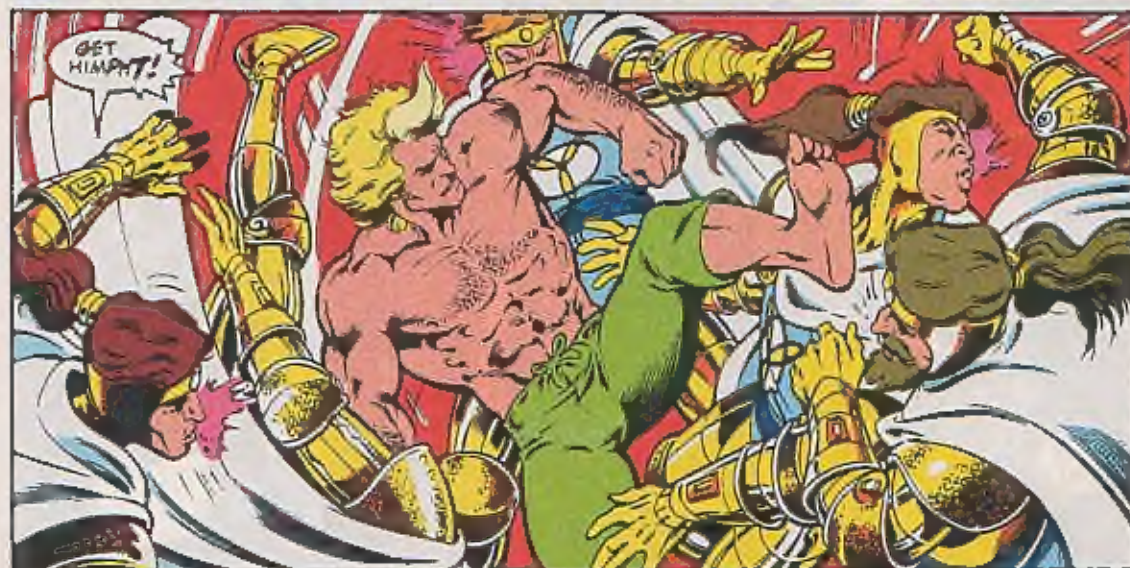


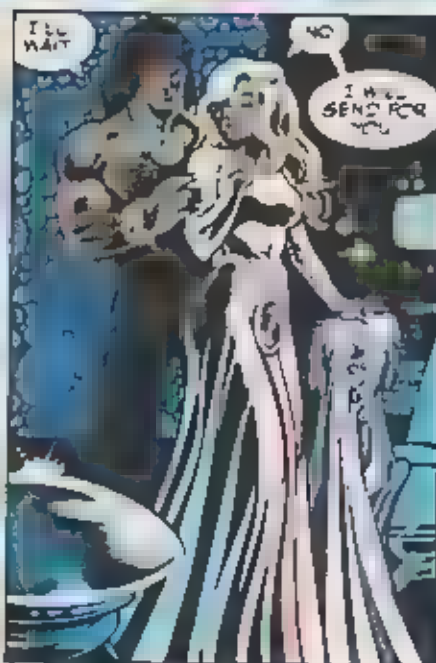
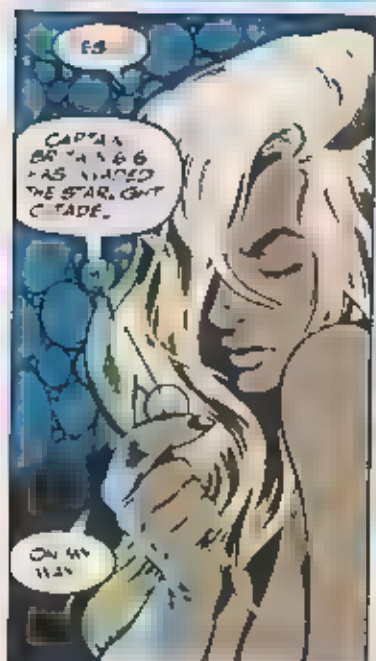
CHOMP

MUNCH

STILL, IT
LOOKS LIKE I
COULD HAVE A
LOT OF FUN
HERE.







THE STRIP WAS
CUT.

CRASH

FORGIVE IS MY
LIEGE WE COULD NOT
HOLD HIM

THANK YOU
ALSO YOU
MAY RETURN
TO YOUR
POST

I WILL
SPEAK WITH THE
CAPTAIN

WHAT'S GOING
ON ROMAN? I
THOUGHT I COULD
TRUST YOU

- BUT YOU'RE
PLAYING THE SAME
TWISTED GAMES AS
YOUR FATHER

I DO ONLY
WHAT CIRCUMSTANCE
DEMANDS OF AN
BRADDOCK

SO WHY DID
YOU PUT A JINX
ON ME THEN?

MERLYN BESTOWED
POWERS ON YOUR FATHER
THAT - LEONARD YOU
ARE THE STRONGEST OF
THE CAPTAIN BRITAIN
CORPS

AND BY NATURE YOU
ARE A LONER IF I HAD
NOT RESTRAINED YOUR
STRENGTH IT WOULD HAVE
SPILT EXCALIBUR

WHY DO
YOU WANT
EXCALIBUR
TO EXIST?

YOU ARE FINE
NOW DUALS WHOSE
COMBINED MIGHT
CAN CHALLENGE
THE DATHERING
FORCES OF EVIL

WHY ARE?

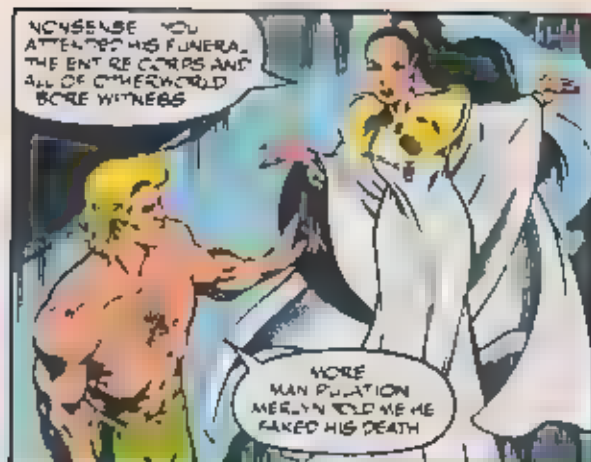
I
DO NOT
KNOW

VERY
CONVENIENT.

I SPEAK
THE TRUTH MY
FATHER BEGAN
THIS GAMBIT
BEFORE HE
DIED

MERLYN
ISN'T DEAD

EXCALIBUR
MET HIM VERY
RECENTLY





PLEASE
CONTINUE THESE
ANIMALS ARE
NOT BETRAY THE
MANIPULATOR'S
HAND



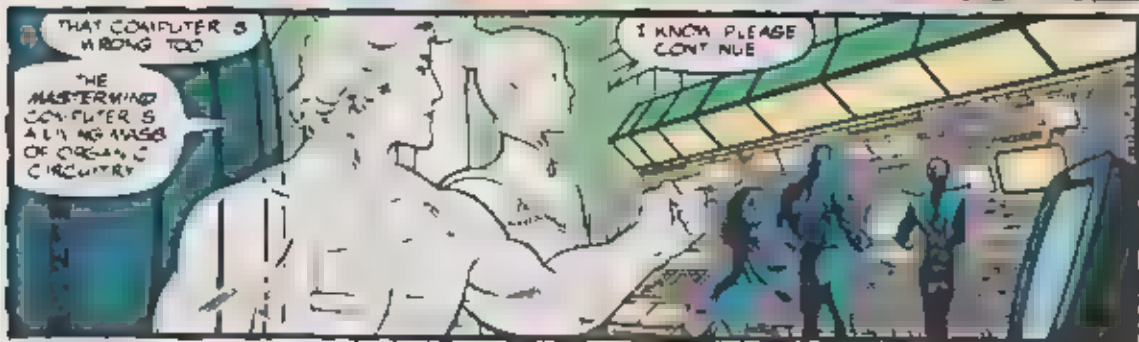
A STARE-ED US
TO THIS POINT
CALLED MYRD, AN
EXPERT ON DEVONIC
POSSIBILITIES



THEN WE WENT
TO BRADDOCK HALL
TO CONSULT MY
FATHER'S COMPUTER



EMMA COLLINS
COULDN'T HAVE
BEEN THERE -
SHE'S DEAD.



THAT COMPUTER IS
WRONG TOO

THE
MASTERMIND
COMPUTER IS
A LIVING MASS
OF ORGANIC
CIRCUITRY

I KNOW PLEASE
CONTINUE



MYRD
LED US ALL
IN A WEIRD
ENCLOSURE

AND
WE CURED
MEGRAN

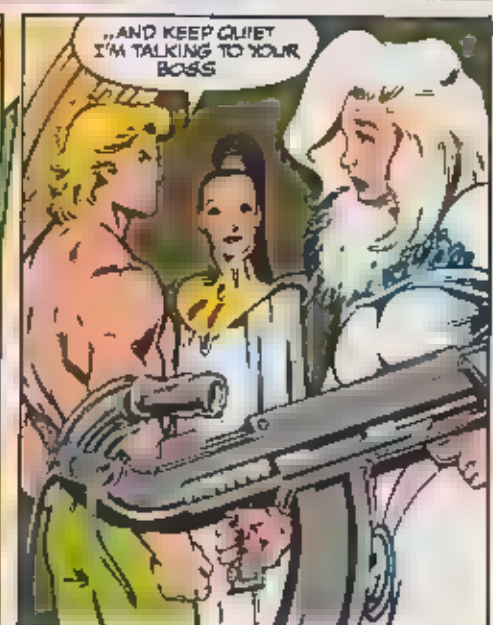
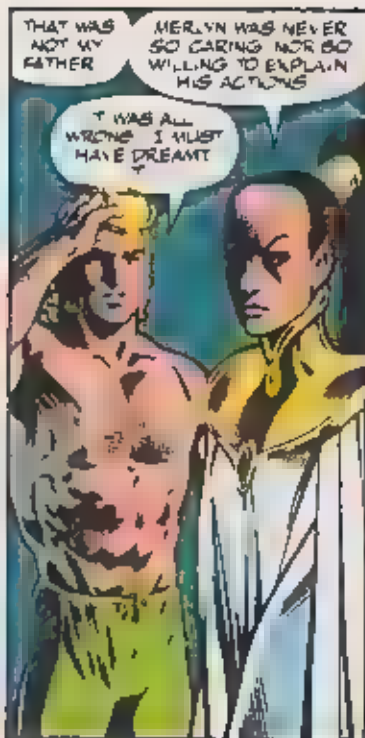


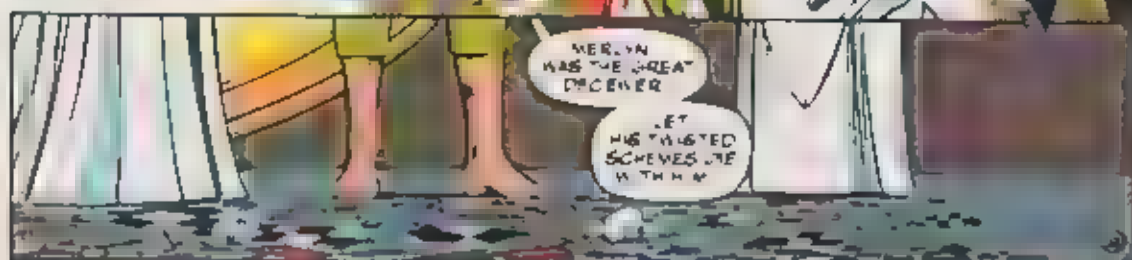
THEN MYRD
REVEALED HIMSELF
AS MYRD, OR AT
LEAST ONE OF HIS
GUISES

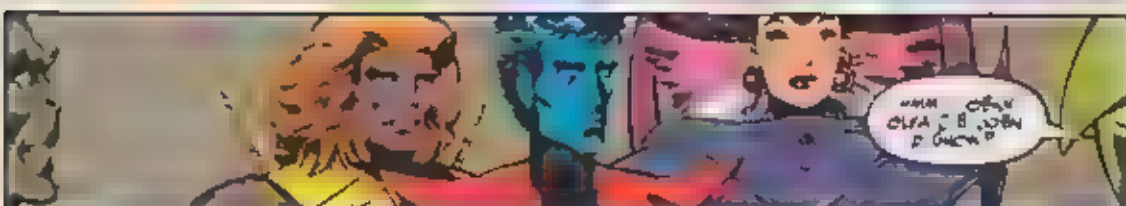
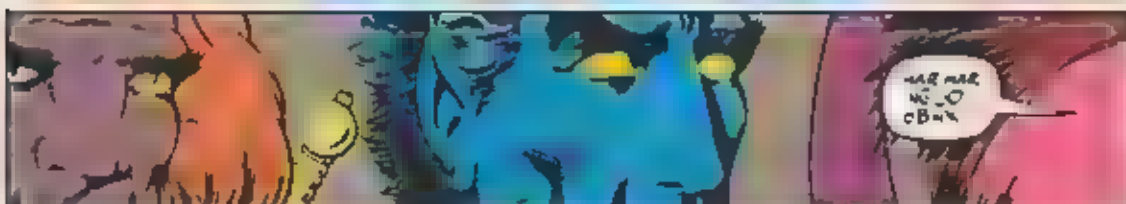
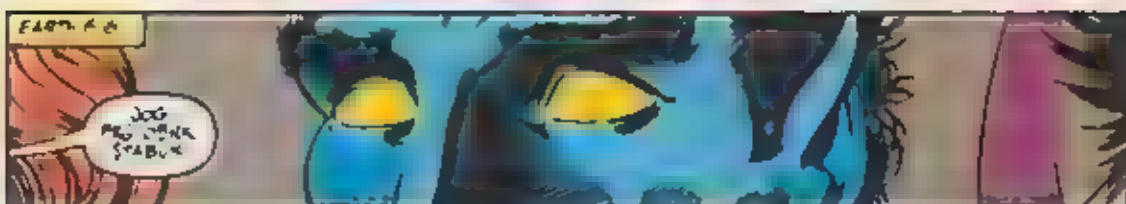
HE APOLOGIZED FOR
DECEIVING US, SAID THAT
EVERYTHING HAD A PURPOSE
BECAUSE IT WAS
BEYOND OUR
UNDERSTANDING

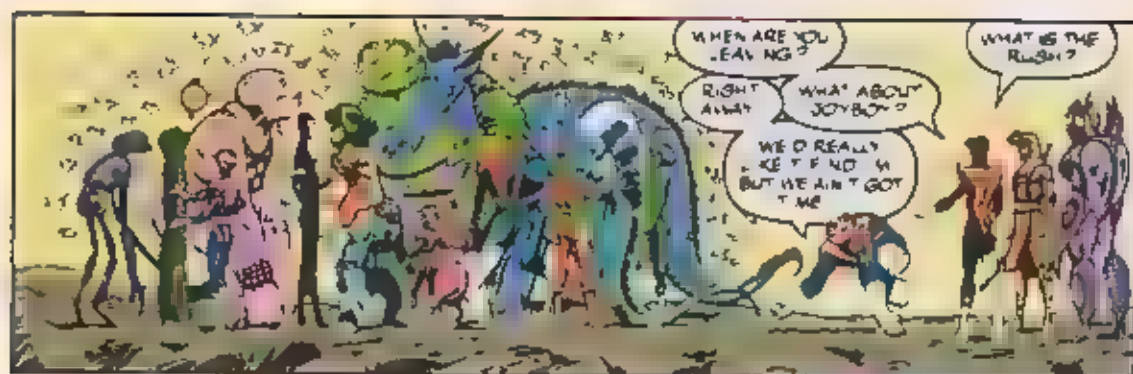
THEN HE
VANISHED

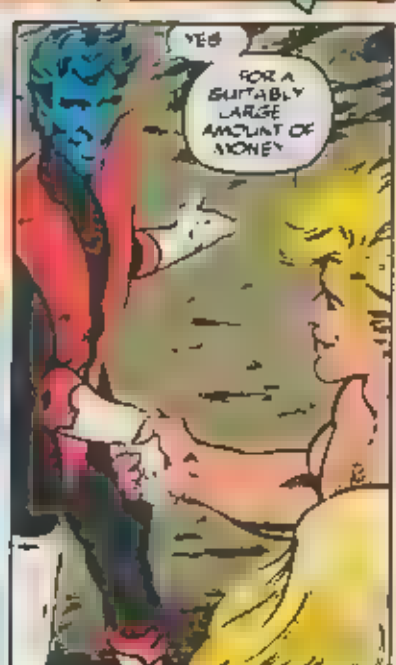
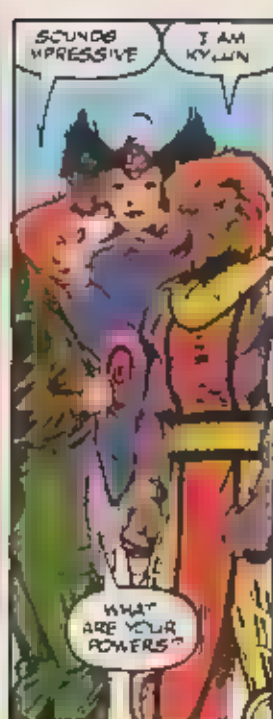
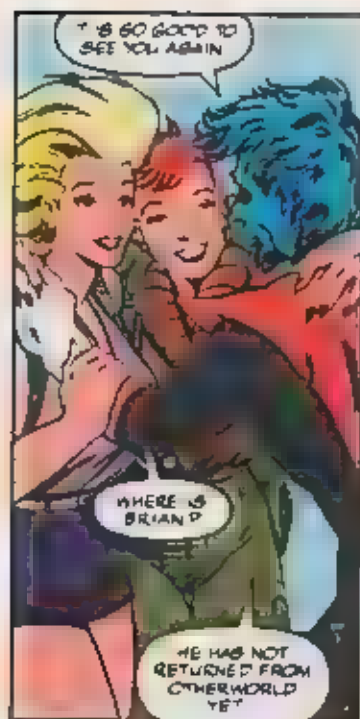
AS MYRD SAID - WAS
IT A BLOODY
EDITION

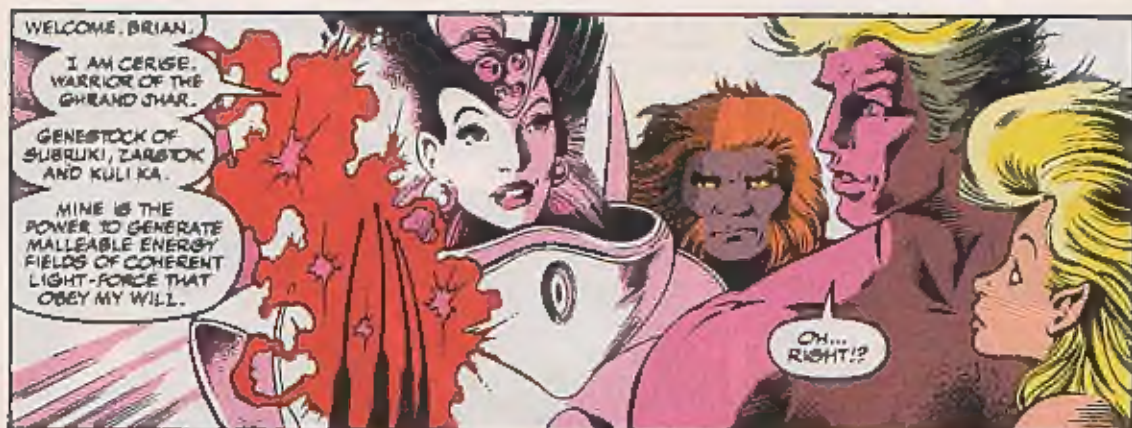












IRELAND--
COUNTY
SLIGO...

IN THE SHADOW OF BEN
BULBIN MOUNTAIN, AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM
WORKING ON WHAT IS
CONSIDERED TO BE THE
OLDEST BURIAL SITE IN
EUROPE PUZZLES OVER
ITS LATEST FINDING...

ALISTAIRE,
THESE READINGS
CAN'T BE RIGHT--
CAN THEY?

THIS IS A STATE-OF-THE-ART
GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR
UNIT, KITTY. THERE IS NO
MISTAKE.

THE G.P.R. SCHEMATIC
IS ACCURATE-- TWO HUNDRED
METERS BENEATH THIS
EXCAVATION...



THAT'S
UNBELIEVABLE.

NO, WHAT'S
UNBELIEVABLE IS
THAT THERE IS A BODY
OF ROUGHLY HUMAN
PROPORTIONS INSIDE
THE CHAMBER...

...AND
IT'S MOVING
AROUND!

NEXT ISSUE:
IRISH STEW

SWORD STOKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

And those letters concerning Alan Davis just won't stop! So here are only a few of the many we've received!

Dear Sword Stokes,

Well, it's about time! My main man Alan Davis is back! Now do me a favor and never switch artists again!

Loved the storyline. It is just the way I remember — action with a little humor. By the way, I hope we see Bert and Gringebottom again, they crack me up! I loved Bert's headband. Where can I get one?

I'm positive that the Technet will be real interesting roommates. I'm eagerly awaiting #43, and I hope — no, I know it will be just as spectacular as #42.

Karl Grant
80 St. James Place #3A
New York, NY 11238

Dear Sword Stokes,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The MAN is BACK! ALAN DAVIS HAS RETURNED! So until Alan Davis pencils EVERY SINGLE BOOK IN THE MARVEL UNIVERSE (hint-hint), Make Mine Marvel.

Charles Robertson
P.O. Box 334
Camerton, AR 72719

But, Charles, if Alan draw any other books he might not have time for ours!

Dear Sword Stokes,

An exploding chicken with an attitude? Oh, lord. I couldn't stop laughing! And the rest of the book? It was great! This was the first book in a long time that I really and thoroughly enjoyed. The artwork was great; the storyline was even better! I thought you were just a really good artist, Mr. Davis. It seems I've been proven wrong. You keep that spot as writer for a long time, hear? You and Mr. Claremont are now tied for best writer in my eyes!

Thank you very much, EXCALIBUR staff (and that means all of you) for EXCALIBUR #42. It's one of the best I've read yet.

Kathy Oviatt
(Address withheld upon request)

Dear Sword Stokes,

Hi! Alan Davis's return was an absolute smooch! His art is just absolutely beautiful (as always!) I've been reading and re-reading #43 since I bought it. Do I sound obsessed or what? I have a few questions that I would appreciate having answered:

First: At the end of issue #43 you introduce us to a red (orange)-haired, cat-eyed hero named Kylon. And in issue #2 the readers were introduced to a red (orange)-haired, cat-eyed boy named Colin! Now please tell me if this is a lost shot in the dark, but I think that somehow Kylon and Colin are the same people or at least other-dimensional counterparts. Am I right? Okay, am I even remotely close?

Second: Is Kylon going to be the new face in the Excalibur line-up?

Third: Will Meggan, if she and Rachel manage to find her parents, get a new look?

Hmmm. This letter took longer than I thought. Oh, well. With such fabulous art and such sensational stories you can be sure that I'll be reading EXCALIBUR! Bye!

Dale Yaddow
20 Church Rd.
Whitesboro, NY 13492

Well, no need to tell you how right you were about Kylon, Dale! And, sorry, but there are no plans to give Meggan a new look anytime soon. (We really like her current look!)

Dear Terry,

Subject: EXCALIBUR #42:

Amazing! Welcome home, Alan old chap. This is where ye should be. I've always felt that the only way to portray characters and settings in other countries the way they should be is to have a writer/artist who lives in and can relate to the setting. And Alan has a comedic weirdness to both his art and story-telling that make this series explode with freshness.

I love Nightcrawler, but I hope he and

Meggan remain just friends. Kurt is the ultimate playboy — he'll never settle down. Also, I hear Excalibur is gaining a new member, I hope it's Kylon!

Len Blehl

(Address withheld upon request)

May all your hopes come true, Len!

Dear Sword Welders,

Re: EXCALIBUR #42

Aaah, that's more like it!

Welcome back, Alan Davis, the once and future king!

Paul E. Schultz
3243 W. US 20
Laporte, IN 46350

Dear Sword Stokes,

EXCALIBUR #42 was great! Outstanding! Finally Alan Davis is back and better than ever. The writing was wonderfully done and in very good detail. The art was beautifully drawn and the inking was perfect. This issue was the best book you guys have ever done in EXCALIBUR. I especially like the part when Meggan kissed Nightcrawler for letting the Technet move in. I bet Brian's blood was boiling. Something is going to happen between the two of them over Meggan. I just know it! Here are some questions I would like to ask you:

1. Could you have a story about Meggan's past in upcoming issues?
2. Will we be seeing any more of Kylon in these pages?

3. How about some new members?

Well, that's all I have to say this time, so until the Crazy Gang joins Excalibur, Make

Mine MARVEL!

Gavin Hunter
49 Jameswood Ave.
Savannah, GA 31406

Wow, Gavin! Join the ranks of the prophets here who know it all before we even do!

Dear Sword Stokes,

Issue #42 was excellent. Alan Davis did a great job on the story and the art. He did an especially good job on Meggan and Nightcrawler. It is also good to see that there is still a little humor in EXCALIBUR.

Well, until Galactus joins the Fantastic Four, Make Mine Marvel!

Mike Jene
185 Woodbine St.
Waterbury, CT 06705

Dear EXCALIBUR Dudes,

X-MEN rules, but rules are always made to be broken.

EXCALIBUR all the way.

Susan Fu
1116 Roselawn Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113

Dear Sword Stokes,

What can I say? What a CREATION! EXCALIBUR undoubtedly qualifies for the 8th wonder of the world! Never have I felt such excitement and anticipation for a comic book. I have been putting off writing to you for too long. I just have to express my appreciation for your creativity and genius! This comic book lacks for nothing.

I, being a number one fan of Kitty, would like to see her (again) in a storyline of her own — such as the one she had in EXCALIBUR #s 32-34. Also — thank you, thank you, for bringing back Alan Davis (it was long overdue, guys!).

Thank you so very much for everything you put into EXCALIBUR; never stop. So, until Nightcrawler gets a beer belly and becomes a couch potato, Make Mine Marvel(-ous)!

Laura L.H.
(Address withheld upon request)



AND, IF THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF A FLOCK OF HYBRID BABY DRAGONS CAN BE CONSIDERED A MIRACLE...

THE NIGHTCRAWLER'S UNSPOKEN PRAYER IS ANSWERED.

DADDY AM I.

COME ONE AND ALL TO THE UGLY BUG-EYED MONSTER BALL

ALAN DAVIS, WRITER/PENCILER

MARK FARMER, INKER

MICHAEL HEISLER, LETTERER

EXCALIBUR CREATED BY CHRIS

GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

